



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3

**Meeting Date:** June 17, 2013

**Meeting Location:** Juvenile Justice Center  
1000 South Michigan  
South Bend, IN

**Council Members Present:** Fay Russell, Regional Manager DCS; Teresa Zornig, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; Pam Whisman, Marshall County DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County DCS; Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko DCS; Janet Bohner, Elkhart Probation.

**Council Members Absent:** Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheilbush; Scott Filley.

**Others In Attendance:** Joni Tusing, DCS; Rachel Tobin-Smith, SCAN; Jeff Bedree, DCS; Leah Plank, CAPS; Mike Marchi, Memorial Hospital; Pat Hancock, Center for Positive Change; Sean McCrindle, Bashor; Adrienne Dickerson, Lifeline Youth and Family Services; Shelly Overgaard, YSB; Bonita Schrock, Oaklawn; Amy Rosen, Oaklawn; Marzy Bauer, YWCA; David Shenk, Elkhart County; Heidi Realmuto, LSS Indiana; Julie Ensinger, Columbus Behavioral Center; Tai Crayton, White's RFS, Inc.; Jean Reed, Dockside; Melissa McWilliams, Lifeline; Jill Hendricks, Whittington Homes.

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Fay Russell.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 04-15-2013 reviewed. Erin Shidler motioned approval of the Minutes. Michael Carroll seconded. Motion carried. Minutes approved as written.
3. Community Partners Update. Rachel Tobin-Smith brought the correct financial information for the current contract time. There is \$362,793 left. June prediction was to spend \$220,000. There should be about \$135,000 remaining. They are buying a lot of tangible goods and are putting families into a "short-term service for safety" category. They are doing a safety assessment of the home to determine if they have safety items such as baby gates, screens, cabinet locks, smoke detectors, bedding, etc. After giving the items, they then go in to install and educate about why they need to keep these things in use. Crossroads had a contract that was covering Kosciusko and Region 4, with 13 case managers. They have hired additional Assessment Workers. The office is moving from Warsaw to St Joe. Statistics are looking good. Outcomes look good, except for the Initial Contact times. It is important to get bills in, can't lag on flex funds, since they must spend it and bill it this month.

There will be an 18% increase that was given across the board to all sub-contracted providers. All contracts will be renewed and these will go out today. A request for approval was made. No questions were asked of Rachel.

Motion to approve these increases was made for the following Providers: Prevention of Abuse/Neglect due to Domestic Violence—Elkhart County; Prevention of Education Neglect-Elementary Age—St Joseph County; Parenting Education—Marshall, Elkhart, Kosciusko, and St Joseph Counties; Therapeutic

Preschool—High Risk Children—Elkhart County. Terri Zornig motioned, Erin Shidler seconded. Motion carried.

SCAN has been given permission by the State to move the money to other regions of the state if it will not be spent in our region. Per Fay, DCS staff should continue to refer families to services in order to prevent a future under-spending situation.

4. Service Update. Jeff Bedree.

Comprehensive Based Models—we are in Contract Negotiations about the rates. This may be the biggest hurdle right now.

Community Based Models—Contracts have been extended for 2 years. If Providers need additional units, they must be requested and FCM Supervisors must go in and approve it. June 30<sup>th</sup> all open referrals are supposed to be automatically extended to 2015. All new referrals will have a 2 year window.

Providers should have received an e-mail as to how to request additional units. If they did not receive this, please let Jeff know and the instructions will be sent.

Fay asked if there were questions from Providers?

--Will the referral be automatically e-mailed to our office? This will be done through KidTraks and Supervisors will have to approve them.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager. Region 3 had an initial budget of 38.6 million dollars for the year 2013. Through the end of May the region spent 25.7 million, therefore, 66.67 % of the budget has been spent. Placements seem to be maintaining where they are. Miscellaneous costs and Preservation Services are increasing. DCS is at 61.78% of their budget and Probation is at 75.41 %. Everything is looking good. Both of these groups are down from last year. Joni will be sending individual information to the Director of each county for sharing once they are finalized.

6. Counties Updates.

--Marshall—Michael Carroll. We are seeing an increase in drug families, a lot of babies born with drugs in their system. Also, a lot of families have multiple issues. Candlelight Vigil was great. We were able to partner with other agencies. Everyone was excited about planning for next year.

--Kosciusko—Erin Shidler. In Kosciusko County we partnered with CASA for the Candlelight Vigil. It went well. At full staff at this time. We have been lucky that there are a number of summer camps in Kosciusko County. The Educational Liaison has been very helpful in getting several of our children enrolled, which has given these children an opportunity that they may not have had otherwise.

--St Joseph—Linda Cioch. Candlelight Vigil went well, partnered with Prevent Child Abuse St Joseph County. RoofSit is going on this week. The Job Fair went very well, 84 applicants were interviewed.

--Elkhart—Tony Sommer. Candlelight Vigil went well. Elkhart County still continues to have high numbers of reports. We are trying to replace FCM's who have left. We had a Job Fair a couple weeks ago. It was pretty successful and we have already offered some people positions.

7. Other Business. Hotline is expanding. There will be 4 satellites across the state. St Joe will be the location for one of the satellites. Fay discussed "double fill". Eventually there will be 20 FCM's answering the phones with 4 Supervisors. It will be located in the same building as DCS, but on a different floor. The target date for this to open up is in September. It is a 24-hour hotline.

Deputy for Field Ops, Dave Jenkins has not retired. He has indicated his intent to retire before the summer's end.

Erin Shidler motioned to adjourn, Tony Sommer seconded. Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

*July RSC Meeting - Monday, July 15, 2013 CANCELLED*

*Next RSC Meeting - Monday, August 19, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., 1000 W Hively Ave, Elkhart, IN*